2005 Show Season Winners

CHAPTER: MIKE BERNARD ACADIANA DATE: JUNE 26, 2005
LOCATION: LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA

BEST OF SHOW:

Single:	HEARTBEAT - Cindy Erndt, Alvin, TX
Double:	NEW IDEA - Sandra Theall, Abbeville,LA
Miniature:	BLUE BAYOU - Nathan Richey, Baytown, TX
Seedling:	PASTEL PRINCESS - Bobby Dupont, Plaquemine, LA

Amateur Single:	BLACK DRAGON - Carolyn McCarroll, Bay St. Louis, MS
Amateur Double:	PRIDE OF ACADIANA - Buddy Short, Lafayette, LA
Collector Single:	NORTHERN LIGHT - Damon Veach, Baton Rouge, LA
Collector Double:	CHERRY ICE - Sandra Theall
Open Single:	BURNISHED GOLD - Sandra and Wally Barr, Metairie, LA
Open Double:	PRO LEGATO - Pat and Roz Merritt, Houston, TX
Comm Single:	EVA PAOLONI - Bobby Dupont
Comm Double:	MAGIC MOMENTS - Bobby Dupont
Mini Single:	CARNIVAL - Marti and Greg Graves, Manvel, TX
Mini Double:	BAPTISTII - Marti and Greg Graves

SEEDLINGS:

Regular Double:	DUPONT 3504 - Bobby Dupont
Mini Single:	DUPONT 12004 - Bobby Dupont

Amateur Exhibitors: 15 Total Entries: 645 Seedlings: 8 Gold Seals: 250 %Gold Seals: 39%

SWEEPSTAKES:

Amateur:	Carolyn McCarroll
Collector:	Sandra Theall
Open Collector:	Marti and Greg Graves
Commercial:	Bobby Dupont

Texas Bloomers

by Patricia Merritt
Lone Star Chapter, Houston, Texas

The 2005 Convention is behind us and the Fall Membership Meeting is just ahead, to be held November 12 – 13, 2005, at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Boca Raton, Florida. Those who attended the 2003 Convention will recall how much we enjoyed this hotel with breakfast and happy hour included in the very reasonable room rate. Details and reservation information can be found elsewhere in this issue. Make plans now to attend and help guide your Society. You can read the Convention Minutes on the Internet at http://americanhibiscus.org/ahsmins.htm

The Hibiscus of the Year competition is exciting, but particularly so to those who have blooms in contention. Three hybridizers had a total of five blooms in this year's final line-up: Bobby Dupont with Black Dragon and Etouffee', Barry Schlueter with Barry Schlueter and Lemon Tree, and Curt Sinclair with Blue Lagoon.

The American Hibiscus Society was founded in 1950 by a small group of hybridizers whose main focus was nomenclature…a method of cataloguing and keeping track of hibiscus blooms, their parentage, and hybridizers. It wasn't until 1971 that the first Hibiscus of the Year was named. The winner, hybridized by Norman Brubaker, was Beverly B, a bloom that to my knowledge is no longer seen. The parents were Lavender Sky x Surfrider. The other winning hybridizers that inaugural year were Harry Goulding with Confetti, and Mrs. R. L. Trainor with Evening Sunset.

The second year of the competition, 1972, saw Cele Niffenegger (D. D. Wolfe) take first place, with All Aglow (Estelle Kanzler) and Betsy (Dale Enslin) winning second and third, respectively. Of these three, All Aglow is still being grown by a number of people, but I have never seen the other two.

Then something strange occurred that couldn't happen under today's competition rules. The 1974 HOTY was All Aglow, with Evening Sunset taking second place. A similar occurrence happened in the 1984 and 1985 contests when Charles Schmidt won second place and Hibiscus of the Year, respectively. Apparently, there was a rules change because these were the only repeat winners in the entire 35-year history of this event. Many years ago, a long-time AHS member told me that when All Aglow came on the scene, it created a clamorous demand for clones. It apparently was one of the first of the multi-colored tropical hibiscus to be introduced, and is still a showstopper.

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